

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF EGREMONT  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
7 JANUARY 2020

**ATTENDING:** MRS. L. ALLEN, MR. M. BANDZIERZ, MR. T. BERKEL, MR. F. PENGLASE, MRS. A. PULVER, MR. S. RAWLINGS

**ABSENT: NONE**

**OTHERS ATTENDING: None**

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 6:00 PM, Chair Laura Allen presiding.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:** 29 OCT 2019 Approved: 4 Yes, 0 No, (2 non-voting absent)
3. **NOTICES:**
  - a. The Chair informed the Committee the tax rate for FY2020 is \$9.49
  - b. Meeting schedule for FY 2020
    - i. Citizen Warrant Article Submission Deadline: 13 March 2020
    - ii. Warrant posting: 21 April 2020
    - iii. Town Meeting: 5 May 2020
    - iv. Town Elections: 12 May 2020
4. **HANDOUTS:**
  - a. Minutes from 29 October 2019 All Boards session
  - b. FY2020 Recap Sheet
5. Due to timing and personal conflicts a Finance Committee report was not prepared for the Egremont Annual Report. This report is a courtesy and not a requirement.
6. Mr. Penglase commented that Egremont Free Cash was boosted by a grant reimbursement.
7. The Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad has presented to Egremont their fiscal outlook and explained that non-reimbursable calls are rising, resulting in shortfalls in revenues. They have asked each south county town to consider a subsidy. Mr. Penglase participated in a session where the presentation was made. The Ambulance Squad is requesting from Egremont the following subsidies to be used to cover the cost gap:
  - a. 2020 \$14,000
  - b. 2021 \$16,000
  - c. 2022 \$18,000
8. Mr. Berkel outlined for the Committee that the School Consolidation discussion is likely to reform as a committee of 24 representatives of the 8 towns (5 SBRSD, 3 BHRSD) each appointing 3 individuals to work on the matter. While there is no specific timetable, it appears the formation of the group will be before Spring, but for all practical purposes the project will be protracted in its nature, possibly taking 3 to 5 years. He noted there was a benefit to exposing all

aspects of cost and operational behaviors of the two districts in the interest of potential savings if not a bona fide union or combination of the two districts.

9. Mrs. Allen informed the Committee that Egremont's Budget process lead by the Select Board will commence on Tuesday 28 January 2020 and will continue on a schedule of every other week at 10:00 AM o'clock until the Budget is complete.
10. Mrs. Allen asked the Committee its preference for a Finance Committee Expense and Reserve Fund Budget for the coming fiscal period. The following was resolved and approved 6 Yes, 0 No:
  - a. Finance Committee Expense: \$400.00
  - b. Egremont Reserve Fund: \$25,000.00

**11. RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS: None**

**12. OFFICIAL'S ITEMS: None**

**13. CITIZEN'S ITEMS: None**

14. Next Finance Committee meeting: 21 January 2020 at 5:00PM in Selectmen's room.

15. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was

**ADJOURNED:** 5:53 PM o'clock.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Berkel

Secretary, Egremont Finance Committee

***These Minutes Approved: 26 March 2019: 6 YES, 0 NO.***